



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

September 2024 Newsletter

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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September Welcome Coffee - Last Chance to Register

Scholarship Winners Summaries

October Joint Meeting with League of Women Voters

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List of Board Members

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 21, 2024 9:00 - 12:00

Branch Welcome Coffee

First United Methodist Church

420 N Nevada

[Sign up here for Welcome Coffee](#)

Saturday, October 19, 2024, 10:00 - 12:00

October Program: Understanding ballot issues, 2024.

Joint meeting with League of Women Voters

2150 Naegel Rd (Union of Electrical Workers' Building)

Friday, November 1, 2024, 8:00 - 2:00

STEM DAY

Hillside Community Center

925 S Institute St, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 11:30 - 2:00

AAUW Holiday Party

Biaggi's Italian Restaurant

1805 Briargate Parkway



President's Message

Hello Our Amazing Members and Happy Fall!

I hope everyone is having a great September, and planning on attending our Welcome Coffee on September 21. We have seven amazing scholarship winners, **with a few of them** attending the Welcome Coffee to share their stories. The hospitality committee, as well as the interest groups, have been working hard to prepare for this event! If you haven't signed up, it isn't too late!

Please make sure you RSVP. The link is immediately below the Welcome Coffee flyer.

Please plan to stop by **Suzanne** at the membership table to verify all of your contact information. We want to ensure that you receive all communication from the branch, as well as national.

As we head into the election, please set some time aside to attend our October joint meeting with The League of Women's Voters-Pikes Peak to learn more about the November Ballot Issues and ask any questions that you may have. The October meeting will be held on the 19th from 10a-12p at I.B.E.W on Naegele Road, Colorado Springs. No time is better than right now to learn about the issues on the ballot and GET OUT AND VOTE!!

Thank you,

Crystal Stebbins

President

The Results Are In: And They Were Spectacular!

Authors Day 2024

On June 3, 2024, a full house gathered to celebrate Authors Day, 2024. Thanks to your hard work and incredible generosity, we raised \$7,716 for our AAUW Scholarship Fund. Here's the recap.

Ticket Revenue \$3,149

Scholarship Donations \$2,011

Auction Sales \$5,018

\$10,448

Expenses (Catering, \$ 2,732

Space Rental, Hospitality,

Programs, Misc) -----

Total \$ 7,716

This was added to our branch scholarship account to fund our scholarship awardees for the '24-'25 school year (who you'll encounter in this newsletter and will meet at the Welcome Coffee on September 21).

For those who couldn't join us this past June, Authors Day featured two amazing **Colorado authors: Shelly Read**, author of the historical novel *Go as a River*, and **Brook Eddy**, author of the personal and business memoir *Steeped: Adventures of a Tea Entrepreneur*. Both authors kept us spellbound as they shared with us about their lives, their writing processes, and their award-winning books. (Both books were named to NPR's 2023 Books We Love list, and *Go as a River* was recently chosen as the 2024 All Pikes Peak Read! Hot Tip: Catch Shelly Read at Library 21c on October 5 for the 2024 All Pikes Peak Read Presents lecture.)

Fueled by a delectable brunch, members and guests capped their morning with generous shopping at our silent auction, which featured a fabulous array of gift baskets, books, services,

memberships, experiences, gift certificates, wine, tea, and all the things we didn't know we needed!

Thank-yous and congratulations go out to a host of AAUW members who made this memorable day possible. Without all of you, not a single scholarship could have been awarded! Thanks for investing your time, talents and funds in these incredible students and in our futures!

- Each member who purchased a ticket or invited a guest (almost half of each ticket sold contributed to our Scholarship fund)
- Each member who solicited an auction item from a local business or service provider
- Each Interest Group or member who donated a basket, sale item, or gift certificate
- Each member and guest who made a purchase at the Silent Auction
- Each Interest Group or member who made a monetary donation to our Scholarship fund
- Each vendor who donated merchandise or a service (Watch for a complete list in next month's newsletter so that you can patronize these businesses!)

Authors Day Reading Committee: Kathy Olson, Cindy Keeffe, Sherri Bristol, Beth Krasovec, Freida Dunlap, Jan Zellmer, Cindi Zenkert-Strange.

Auction Committee: Lorena Wilder, Kathy Olson, Cindy Keeffe, Sherri Bristol, Rocky and Melanie Hudson. Additional auction set-up, item running and check-out: Joan Skoog, Claire Drodz, Marilyn Parker, Gloria Carpenter, Janet Geisz

Publicity: Brenda Wolfe, Audrey McGuire, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Marilyn Frydrych

Welcome and Check-in: Suzanne Baldwin Krause, Mo Sigler, Sue Neufeld

Cashiers: Joan Skoog, Robin Depries, and Gretchen Hein, Kudos to Joan Skoog and Lorena Wilder for all the bookkeeping needed to accurately track our results.

Hospitality: Kathy Gutnayer, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, and Sherri Bristol (who crafted the stunning tablescape.) Thanks also to Marilyn Frydrych, Mary Kay Rockwell, Betty Griner, Audrey McGuire, and Kathy G's guest, Skyler Tabe, for assistance with set-up and clean-up.

Program: Emcee Crystal Stebbins, Brenda Wolfe (representing the Scholarship Committee), Sherri Bristol, who introduced and hosted Shelly Read, and Cindi Zenkert-Strange, who introduced and interviewed Brook Eddy.

Special Acknowledgments: Catering, Picnic Basket; Coffee, Starbucks; Venue, Broadmoor Community Church; Printing, District 11; Book Sales, Hooked on Books. Thanks to AAUW Colorado Co-Presidents, Carolyn Cooley and Jill Smith, for joining us at Authors Day 2024!

September Branch Meeting



AAUW -COS Welcome Coffee

September 21, 2024

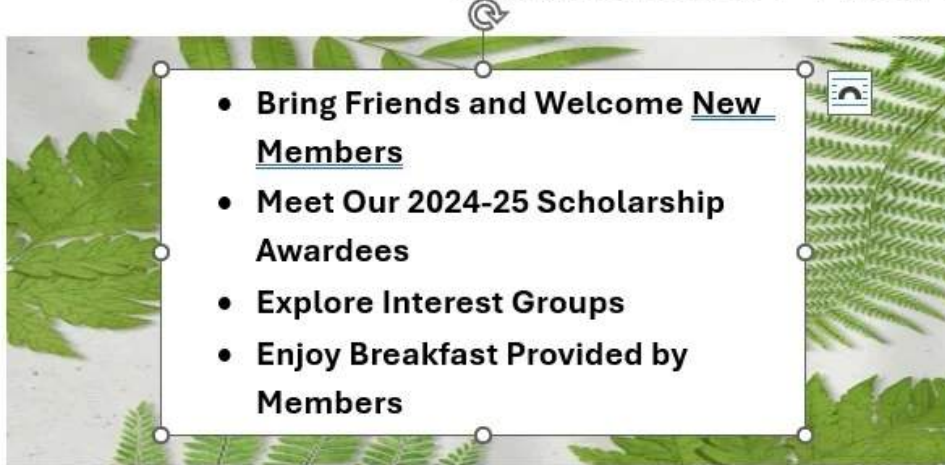
Fellowship Hall, First United Methodist Church

420 N Nevada Ave.

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Doors Open 9:00 AM

Program from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM



Register for Free on Eventbrite by clicking on the link below.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET? DON'T WAIT, REGISTER BELOW, NOW!

[Sign up here for Welcome Coffee](#)

Interest Group Report on Welcome Coffee

Hello Dear Members,

I hope you've signed up for the Welcome Coffee coming up next Saturday, 21st of September. If not, THERE'S STILL TIME! Find the informational flier in this newsletter about the Coffee and press the button to register. It's FREE!

The Coffee is one of the highlights of our year, and our Hospitality Committee, **Kathy Gutneyer** and **Cindy Zenkert-Strange** have been working hard to arrange this great event. Come along, bring a friend and enjoy. Many of the Interest Group members have volunteered to bring a wonderful array of food, including baked goods, such as muffins, sweet breads, bars and Danishes. There will be a delicious selection of fruit, and savory casseroles, quiches and of course, the coffee wouldn't be the same without plenty of deviled eggs!

You'll have an opportunity to meet and congratulate the recipients of this years' scholarships, and all our interest groups will be represented at tables around the room. You can browse the groups and check out the New Groups and Information table where **Cindy Keefe** and I will be seated ready to assist with your inquiries and talk about the new groups we want to get started soon.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 21st.

Pip Bodkin

Interest Group Coordinator

[\(206\) 427-2444](tel:2064272444) pipbodkin@gmail.com

**AAUW October Program
2024 Ballot Issues Forum Followed
by Complimentary Luncheon**

Be sure you are well informed about the issues on the ballot for the upcoming election! Ballots have been written that have been confusing in their wording and the outcome can be that your YES vote denies a ballot passing and your NO vote supports its passage.

The Ballot Issues Forum, to be held on **Saturday October 19th**, and sponsored by the AAUW and the League of Women Voters, will succinctly and clearly explain each of the issues and facilitate your vote in the upcoming election in a way that reflects your values.

Please register using the link below and bring your partner and your friends.

Date, time, and registration link are below.

Your vote is essential!

Sat., Oct. 19, 2024: Program: LWVPPR Ballot Issues Forum

[Click here to register for LWV's Ballot Issues Forum](#)

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY BALLOT ISSUES FORUM

Together, we'll review the pros and cons of the ballot issues followed by discussion & Q&A. Please RSVP for the complimentary lunch after provided by our sponsors.



19 Oct 2024
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



I.B.E.W.
2150 Naegele Rd
Colorado Springs CO 80904



**RSVP at lwvppr.org
Event Calendar**

Thank you to our Sponsors:



Introducing the 2024-2025 AAUW Colorado Springs Scholars

Despite the wide variety of backgrounds and responsibilities of our Colorado Springs scholarship recipients, you can always count on the fact that each of them far exceeds the minimum cumulative GPA requirement of 3.0! While you can learn a little bit about each scholar in this article, on Saturday, September 21, at the annual Welcome Breakfast, you can meet them in person and hear directly from each scholar. Many thanks go to the members of the Colorado

Springs Branch for your support of our scholarship program through donations and participation in the annual Authors' Day.



ALINEYLI by Brenda Wolf

Alineyli is extremely grateful to be receiving an AAUW scholarship to help realize her educational goals. Due to the untimely death of her father and challenging family issues, she has overcome many hurdles and feels that her greatest accomplishment to date is that she refuses to give up on her dreams. As one of her references stated, "She has set forth on a journey within a system that often prevents immigrants from thriving and succeeding;" but she is determined to persevere.

She is transferring from PPSC to UCCS this Fall to further her pursuit of a bachelor's degree in psychology. Ali is excited to seek this degree to achieve her ultimate goal of becoming a licensed mental health professional and work for a non-profit that serves marginalized communities. She hopes to continue her post-grad work at CU Denver which offers a more diverse faculty. She feels there is still a stigma in the brown community about mental health and she wants to help people deal with vulnerable emotions and set them on a path for a lifetime of healthy relationships.

Outside the classroom, Ali has been actively involved as a volunteer with the Accompaniment and Sanctuary Coalition of Co Springs (ASC COS) and the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC), both are organizations that work to support and protect immigrants in the state. She has shown remarkable initiative by finding time every few months to volunteer as a dispatcher for the ASC COS community hotline. The AAUW COS branch wishes her success in her academic future.



AMBER by Jeanne Koss

Amber is truly focused on her professional journey in the field of nursing and proud of how she is balancing the priorities in her life. After working as an EMT in Aurora, she decided to become certified as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant), and she is now the sole source of income for her family since her husband decided to leave his job and stay home with their three children (ages 9, 7, and 2), realizing how much he'd missed with their two oldest. Amber's typical schedule includes attending classes at PPSC during days, working as a CNA nights, home at 6:00 AM for 6 hours of sleep, and 2 hours with her children. She feels her biggest obstacle is "Mom guilt," but realizes marriage is a partnership and that this schedule will not be forever.

Amber's accomplishments include a 100% completion rate for her courses, maintaining a 3.58 GPA at PPSC, and being invited to join 2 honor societies. She is determined to complete her ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) in three more semesters and then continue on to get her BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing). Her future may include either pediatrics or geriatrics. Amber is so very grateful to receive the AAUW scholarship....." a real help when a family is living paycheck to paycheck!"



Audrey by Jeanne Koss

Audrey is not a typical AAUW scholarship recipient who is majoring in education or nursing. She struggled in school as a teenager and had some challenges to overcome. High school was difficult and when she began her studies at Pikes Peak Community College the first time she majored in zoology. She found herself overwhelmed and unprepared for community college and

dropped out. Several years later she attempted community college again and during that time period her father died from liver failure. Dealing with her father's death and the grief that followed left her overwhelmed and unable to continue her studies again. She was also a single mother and had an eight-year-old child to support. Audrey's child had experienced severe emotional trauma and had an IEP for behavioral support. There were many times when Audrey was called to her child's school for meetings. Audrey and her daughter have both been diagnosed with ADHD and are receiving the help and support they need to be successful.

Audrey's stepdad asked her to fill in at his machine shop for an employee who abruptly quit the job. She stepped in and learned the job, discovering along the way that she had an aptitude for this work. She once again applied to Pikes Peak State College to begin a degree in Advanced Manufacturing, Machining Technology and CAD Mechanical. PPSC wasn't sure that she was college material and denied her financial aid. Audrey had to present a qualitative appeal in order to receive financial aid. Currently her grade point average is 3.85, she has three majors and will graduate in 2026 after three years of college all while raising her child, attending school full time and working in the machine shop! Quite an accomplishment for someone facing all the obstacles she has in life. I would explain what her job will look like after she graduates if I understood the dynamics! I think of Audrey as a Rosie the Riveter on steroids, and I know that women are seldom seen in these jobs. We are proud to be a part of Audrey's academic journey and know that she will be incredibly successful!



BRITTANY By Debi Levin-Stankevich

Brittany is a non-traditional student who has completed all of her prerequisites allowing her to apply to the Nursing Program at Pikes Peak State College in the spring of 2024. She has wanted to be a nurse since her days in middle school. Her goals besides being accepted into the nursing program are to achieve her Associates General Studies degree and eventually receive her BA degree in Nursing. Once she graduates as a Registered Nurse, she plans to work in a hospital setting in Colorado.

This journey has been long and strenuous as Brittany is also a single parent with a nine-year-old son. She states that as a single parent she has strived to strike the right balance between caring

for her son and working toward her dreams. After several years of living independently, working full-time and attending school only part-time she made the difficult decision to focus on her education. This has required her to apply for financial aid, and a variety of scholarships. She is now working only part time and attending college full-time.

She has been able to earn high grades and has an overall 3.9 GPA. She also teaches fitness classes, mentors middle school students for a non-profit organization called Educating Children of Color and tutors students at PPSC in Science and English. When asked what she is most proud of she without hesitation talks about her growth as a mother. One of her recommendations noted that she is a top student with much determination, a great attitude, and is dedicated to earning high grades and succeeding. The other recommendation noted that she will be great asset to her patients and any community she serves.



EMALEIGH by Mo Sigler

Emaleigh's close relationship with her grandmother pushes her to be successful and fulfilled even though her grandmother passed away two years ago. When her grandmother was diagnosed with both Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Emaleigh experienced the

good and bad sides of healthcare, lessons she will take with her as she earns degrees in nursing.

In order to attain a bachelor's degree in nursing, Emaleigh accepted a track scholarship to UCCS. She learned that the scholarship was for both indoor and outdoor track which gave her only two free weeks out of the academic year. Before long, it was apparent to her that the year-long track commitment interfered with her pursuit of a nursing degree. Emaleigh gave up her track scholarship and transferred to PPSC where she is pursuing the associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing.

She currently works at Children's Hospital as a clinical assistant in the NICU. It is here that Emaleigh has found her passion for NICU nursing. Once she graduates with her BSN, she plans to work as a bedside nurse for a while, then sees herself attending graduate school to become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. Like many of our AAUW scholarship recipients, Emaleigh is highly successful academically. She maintains a 4.0 GPA.



GENESIS by Mo Sigler

Genesis and her family immigrated to the United States when she was four and settled in Colorado Springs. Throughout high school, she dreamed of becoming a nurse. A few months before Genesis's high school graduation, she met with a high school counselor. She learned that her DACA status (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) allowed her to work, however, prevented her from being legally licensed as a nurse. Although she was broken hearted,

Genesis knew that she wanted to work in the medical field, so she attended Pikes Peak Community College to earn an associate's degree in medical assisting. An internship at an OB/GYN office evolved into full time employment. The doctor she worked under mentored her, taught her new skills, explained what he was doing, and allowed her to watch procedures he was performing.

Her love for women's health and the medical field grew. At some point she learned that a change occurred, and that Colorado was one of very few states that allows people with DACA status to be licensed as nurses. Genesis returned to Pikes Pike State College, was accepted into the nursing school, and enrolled in a dual program for associates and bachelor's in nursing degrees. Genesis also received her CNA certification and works at Memorial Hospital North while enrolled in college.

Once she graduates, she hopes to be employed at a Colorado Springs hospital where nurses in women's health are cross training in Labor and Delivery, Mom and Baby, and Nursery. Her goal is to fight for patients when they feel they have no fight left in them.

Genesis is especially resourceful in applying for scholarships. Without regard for the amount of a scholarship, she applies for all that she can find. One year, she had enough scholarships that she only needed to pay \$43 out-of-her pocket! All of Genesis's experiences thus far have confirmed that she has chosen a field that she truly loves.



SHEER– Margaret Baptist Memorial Scholarship Recipient by Audrey McGuire

Sheer (SHE/THEY) is the Margaret Baptist Memorial Scholarship recipient 2024-2025. She enrolled in dual degrees at PPSC. Sheer will receive her associate degree in Medical Assistance along with a general studies associate degree. She will continue her studies at Northern Arizona University in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in medical assistance.

Sheer is non-binary and with one of her children being transgender, the field of medicine serving gender diversity is her career objective. Sheer, originally from Georgia, a widowed Mom of four children and a grandmother moved to Colorado to receive better health care for her child diagnosed with autism, prosopagnosia and other co-morbidities.

Sheer has had a variety of volunteer roles including serving with the Girls Scouts for 13 years. More recently she has served the LGBTQIA+ community including bringing back PPSC'S LBTGTQIA+ club, Queer Empowerment. Along with her scholastic achievements and leadership in volunteer organizations,

Sheer is also a skilled glassblower. Her vacations must include a place that offers a studio to blow glass.



Jan Zelmer Helping with Electrical Circuits October, 2024

November Branch Meeting -- STEM DAY

Volunteer Sign-ups, Funding, Progress

STEM DAY is fast approaching. The STEM Committee will have a table at the Welcome Coffee with signup sheets available for volunteers to help with registration, lunch, experiments, cleanup, and filling tote bags a week or two ahead of time. Anyone interested in serving on the STEM Committee may also sign up for that at the table. Thank you to all the members who took the time to complete our Volunteer Survey. More information will be coming out to them in early October. So far, we have 4 of 6 leads for the experiments. Colorado Springs Utilities has come up with three and one will be returning from last year.

If you choose to sign up as a Table Monitor who will be interacting with the girls while they are doing the experiments, please plan to attend training ahead of time. There are two choices: Monday October 28 at Colorado Technical College on Garden of the Gods. Chemistry is scheduled from 10:30 to 11:30, and Electrical Circuits is scheduled for 12:30 to 1:30. The other choice is from 8:00 to 9:00 the day of the event, November 1, at Hillside Community Center. Catamount Insitute is putting on the Windmill Generator program. They have indicated they would like four helpers, but the helpers don't need training.

Thanks to our president, **Crystal Stebbins**, our funding challenge is met. She has arranged for some of her business associates and her own business to handle all the food requirements for all 250 participants. We're also planning to stay within our budget by asking last year's volunteers to wear their T-shirts again if their T-shirt is still in good condition.

Marilyn Frydrych

STEM Co-Chair

2024/2025 Elected Officers/Executive Committee/

Board Members

President: Crystal Stebbins

President Elect: Joan Skoog

Treasurer: Robin Depies

Secretary: Cindy Keeffe

Vice President of Membership: Suzanne Kraus

Co-VPs of Programs: Schon Beechler

Marion Phelps

Co-VPs Community Outreach: Marilyn Frydrych

OPEN

2024/2025 Appointed Officers/Board Members

Communications Director: OPEN

Interest Group Coordinator: Pip Bodkin

Scholarships Chair: OPEN

Public Policy Director: OPEN

Hospitality Co-Chair: Cindi Zenkert-Strange

Kathy Gutnayer

Membership Matters

Dear Members,

Welcome back after our summer break. Please welcome these new members, **Kellena Bartz**, **Amy Rosewater**, **Sylvia Strubel** and **Debbie Victor**.

The Welcome coffee is coming up soon. At the check in table, you will be able to renew your membership, guests can join AAUW and you can make a donation to our branch. Checks and charge cards will be accepted.

If you have any membership questions, please contact me.

See everyone soon.

Suzanne Baldwin Kraus

Membership VP

Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com

[719-235-7481](tel:719-235-7481)

Interest Groups

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Each year, the Foreign Policy Association releases a **Briefing Book** on the 8 most pressing global topics facing the country. The topics for 2025 are:

- American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads,
- U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy
- U.S. China Relations
- International Cooperation on Climate Change
- The Future of NATO and European Security
- AI and American National Security
- India: between China, the West
- The Global South, After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East

Participation in the group includes reading the chapter on the topic for each meeting and watching a twenty-minute **DVD** on the topic prior to breaking into groups for discussion on questions listed at the end of each chapter.

The first meeting is on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. **The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday during the months of February, March, April and May from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Pikes Peak Library District- East Library.**

To register, please email or call **Jeanette Minniti** and provide her with your email address and phone number. Briefing books are \$35.00. There is a 20% discount on Briefing books if you register by the end of October. If you would like additional information, please contact **Jeanette**.

Jeanette Minniti

jeanetteminniti@gmail.com

[719-964-833](tel:719-964-833)

Listing of Interest Groups

Various Days in the week/month

BRIDGE LIGHT

Mondays

HARDY HIKERS, BOOKS TO FILMS

Tuesdays

DINNER BOOK CLUB, GREAT DECISIONS (Current World Events), MORNING GLORIES BOOK CLUB, READERS' POTPOURRI, TECHNOLOGY, VISUAL ARTS

Wednesdays

AFTERNOON READERS, CHOCOLATE LOVERS, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (EA), LUNCHEON NOVEL 1, LUNCHEON NOVEL TOO, SOUTHWEST STUDIES

Thursdays

CHAPTER & VERSE WRITING GROUP, TED TALKS, WALKIE-TALKIE HIKES, WOMEN WHO WRITE

Fridays

EXPLORING LIVES AND CULTURES, LOCAL HISTORY

Fridays or Saturdays

FELLOWSHIP OF THE GRAPE (FOG)

For those who would like more information about interest groups click below:

[Click Here for More Information on Interest Groups](#)

American Association of University Women

4660 Adieu Cir, Colorado Springs
United States of America



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